

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 OMB-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 H-02 TRSE-00 EB-07 AID-05 MC-02

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DRAFTED BY AF/C:DLCARDWELL:JDP

APPROVED BY AF:WESCHAUFEE

AF/I:JANDEREGG

PM/SAS:SWINSHIP

AF:JBLAKE (IN DRAFT)

DOD:WMOORE

OMB:HSHAW (INFO)

NSC:RHARRISON AND MR. HORAN

T:WLEWIS

DOD/OASD/ISA:JREED S/S:FVORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

S E C R E T STATE 062773

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MILI, PFOR, GB, AO

SUBJECT: U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO GABON

REF: A) LIBREVILLE 364

B) LIBREVILLE 377

1. AS REQUESTED REFTELS, FOLLOWING SHOULD BE USED AS
RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT BONGO'S QUERIES REGARDING U.S.
MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO GABON:

A. AS RECOMMENDED BY MILITARY SURVEY TEAM, USG GIVING
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SYMPATHETIC AND PRIORITY CONSIDERATION TO PROVIDING

ASSISTANCE TO GABON UNDER THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES (FMS) PROGRAM. HOWEVER, GABON'S REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE NECESSARILY MUST BE CONSIDERED IN THE CONTEXT OF TOTAL U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO AFRICAN NATIONS POTENTIALLY THREATENED AS A RESULT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN ANGOLA.

B. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, BE PREPARED TO FACILITATE CASH PURCHASES THROUGH FMS OR COMMERCIAL CHANNELS FOR EQUIPMENT AND/OR TRAINING AT ANY TIME GOG WISHES TO SPEND ITS OWN FUNDS.

C. WE ARE SYMPATHETIC TO GOG'S CONCERN OVER ITS SECURITY AND THE THREAT OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION. AT THE SAME TIME,

WE WOULD APPRECIATE GOG'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS NECESSARY TO OBTAIN CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL WHICH PREVENT US FROM RESPONDING AS DEFINITELY AND PROMPTLY AS WE WOULD LIKE.

2. FYI ONLY: U.S. DESIRES TO BE FORTHCOMING TO RESPONSE TO GABONESE REQUEST AND IS PRESENTLY ATTEMPTING TO DEVISE A PROGRAM FOR CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL. WE ARE PLANNING TO CONSULT WITH CONGRESS ABOUT REPROGRAMMING FY 76 FUNDS TO AROUND 2 MILLION DOLLARS IN USG GUARANTEED FMS CREDITS FOR GABON. IN ADDITION, WE WOULD PLAN TO SUBMIT REQUESTS TO CONGRESS IN FUTURE FISCAL YEARS, BUT NO COMMITMENT CAN BE MADE AT THIS TIME. PROPOSALS FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE IN FY 77 TO ANGOLA'S NEIGHBORS, INCLUDING GABON, WILL BE GROUPED INTO A COMPLETE PACKAGE FOR CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION. HOWEVER, UNTIL THIS COURSE OF ACTION HAS BEEN APPROVED BY ALL CONCERNED, WE CANNOT INFORM GOG MORE SPECIFICALLY OF OUR INTENTIONS. IN CASE OF SPECIAL VIP VEHICLES FOR PRESIDENTIAL GUARD, WHICH FALL OUTSIDE SCOPE OF AUTHORIZED MILITARY PROGRAMS, WE HAVE FOUND NO WAY TO FUND THEM BUT WE ARE CONTINUING TO LOOK AT PROBLEM. END FYI. KISSINGER

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